N° 20,642 A.D. 1892

Date of Application, 15th Nov., 1892
Complete Specification Left, 11th Aug., 1893—Accepted, 16th Sept., 1893

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in Coffins.

I, James Bradley Furniss, of 7^A Queen's Road, Brighton, in the County of Sussex, Undertaker, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

The object of my invention is to construct water-tight coffins in such a manner as to obviate the necessity of having what is known as a shell, and confining myself to the outer coffin and lining the same with lead, zinc or any other metal and making same watertight, and also to improve the outward appearance of the coffins by filling in the panels with separate panels covered with velvet or other material in the manner hereinafter described.

At the present time when it is desirable to have a watertight coffin with a wood exterior, they are usually made in three separate parts; *viz.*, the shell, the lead coffin, and the outer coffin, and are arranged so that the lead coffin comes between the shell and the outer coffin.

In carrying out my invention, the method of construction is entirely different, I make the ordinary single coffin and form the sides, ends and lid into panels by means of mouldings, the said moulding at the bottom being flush with the coffin, and the moulding round the top is raised to form a rebate for the lid of the metal lining. I then cut out of lead, zinc or other metal, the shape of the bottom, sides and ends, the depth of the sides and ends being a little more than that of the coffin to allow of its being dressed over the top of the coffin and up the sides of the moulding and these are soldered together at the angles.

In order to secure the shroud, linings and trimmings without in any way destroying the virtue of the metal, I place several └┐ shaped brackets near the top of the coffin and these are soldered or let into prepared slots; into the brackets I fit a slight wooden fillet, which goes all round and is prevented from being displaced by means of a tooth formed in the upright portion of the bracket or by a screw in the same position, it is to this wooden fillet that I fasten the shroud, linings and trimmings above referred to.

In forming the metal lid, I make a skeleton frame which I brace across at one or two points to give it firmness, this frame is covered with the same metal, and is made to fit in between the rebates formed by the top mouldings of the coffin; the metal lid is then dropped into these rebates and the whole soldered round thus rendering it watertight and as effectual as the present system; the lid of the coffin which is panelled in the same manner as the sides and ends would then be screwed on as in ordinary cases.

In carrying out the part of my invention which refers to the panels on the outside of the coffins, I cut panels of thin wood, the same size and shape as the panels on the coffin, and these I cover with velvet or some other textile material, and fasten them into the panels of the coffin by any known means; to further add to the appearance of the coffin I fill in the corners of the panels with artistic designs made of the same metal as the handles.

It will be understood that I do not restrict myself to any particular shape of coffin as my invention is equally applicable to either the ordinary or mediæval shaped coffins.

Dated this 14th day of November 1892.

THOMAS H. MELLOR,
110, St. James's Street, Brighton, Agent for the Applicant.

[*Price 8d.*]

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in Coffins.

I, JAMES BRADLEY FURNISS, of 7^{A} Queen's Road, Brighton, in the County of Sussex, Undertaker, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

The object of my invention is to construct watertight and air-tight coffins in such a manner as to obviate the necessity of having what is known as a "shell," and confining myself to the outer coffin, and lining the same with lead, zinc or any other metal and making same air-tight and water-tight; and also to improve the outward appearance of the coffin by filling in the panels with separate panels covered with velvet or other textile material; or separate panels of wood of a different kind or nature to that of the main or principal part of the coffin in the manner hereinafter described.

At the present time when it is desirable to have a water-tight coffin with a wood exterior it is usually constructed in three separate parts, *viz.*:—the shell, the lead coffin, and the outer coffin, and these are so arranged that the lead coffin comes between the shell and the outer coffin.

According to the invention forming the subject matter of the present application for Letters Patent the coffins are manufactured in any of the ways hereinafter described.

According to one method of manufacture I make an ordinary single coffin and form the sides, ends and lid into panels by means of mouldings either framed together by a mortise and tenon joint or simply secured to the coffin by means of a butt joint, the said moulding at the bottom being flush with the coffin, and the moulding round the top being raised so as to form a rebate for the return of the metal lining, I then cut out of lead, zinc or any other metal the shape of the bottom, sides and ends, the depth of the sides and ends being a little more than that of the coffin to allow of its being dressed into the rebate mentioned above, and these are all soldered together at the angles.

In order to properly secure the shroud, linings, paddings, and all necessary inside trimmings without in any way destroying the virtue of the said metal lining, I place several └┐ shaped metal flanges or brackets near the top of the coffin and also near the bottom and these are either soldered to the metal lining or let into prepared slots; into the said flanges or brackets I fit a slight wooden frame or kerb which would continue all round the coffin, and is prevented from being displaced by means of a tooth formed in the vertical portion of the said metal flange or bracket, or by a screw in the same position, it is to this wooden frame or kerb that I fasten the shroud, linings, and all the necessary inside trimmings above referred to.

In forming the metal lid I prepare a skeleton frame which I brace across at one or two points to give it firmness, this frame is covered with the same metal and is made to fit into the rebate formed by the said wooden frame or kerb; the metal lid is then dropped into the rebate thus formed and the whole soldered round thus rendering it water-tight and air-tight and as effectual as the present system; the lid of the coffin which is panelled in the same manner, as the sides and ends, would then be screwed on as in ordinary cases.

Figure 1. of the accompanying drawings represents this method in part section.

The portion of the coffin shewn in the said Figure 1. is marked A., the mouldings are marked B., the wooden frame or kerb is marked C., the metal lining is marked D., and the metal flanges or brackets, for securing and supporting the said wooden frame or kerb, and to which the linings and trimmings are attached, are marked E.

According to another method of manufacture the coffins would be framed together by means of mortises and tenons, and of sufficient thickness to allow of a moulding being wrought on the outside, and rebated on the inside, into the said rebate panels would be fitted so that the whole of the inside portion would be a flush surface; the bottom edge of the said frame would likewise be rebated and the bottom of the coffin inserted after the two sides and ends are screwed and bolted together. The object of this method of fixing the bottom is for strength as the grain would run transverse to that of the sides and parallel to the ends.

The metal lining would be fitted, dressed, and soldered, the wooden frame or kerb, and metal flanges or brackets would be attached for securing and fixing the linings, trimmings, and shroud, and the metal lid would be soldered as hereinbefore described.

Figure 2. of the accompanying drawings represents this method in part section.

The frame hereinbefore mentioned and shewn in the said Figure 2. is marked A., the back panel is marked B., and the other parts are marked as in the preceding Figure 1. excepting the bottom which is marked F.

According to another method of manufacture and relating to that system where the panels are formed by mouldings—the moulding round the top would be sufficiently raised to form a rebate capable of receiving the metal lid, this method of construction would be adapted when heavy metal—such as lead—is used for the lining of the coffin.

Figure 3. represents this method in part section.

The part of skeleton frame for supporting the metal lid is marked G. in Figures 1. 2. and 3. Note. Section lines are not continued through to prevent confusion.

In carrying out that part of my invention which refers to the panels on the outside of the coffin, I cut panels of thin wood the same size and shape as the panels formed by the mullions on the coffin, and these I cover with velvet or some other textile material, or the panels would be of a different kind of wood to that of the coffin, and I fasten them into the panels of the coffin by any known means; to further add to the appearance of the coffin I fill in the corners of the said panels with artistic designs made of the same metal as the handles.

In all the accompanying drawings this part of my invention is marked X.

Figure 4. of the accompanying drawings is the coffin shewn in elevation.

It will be distinctly understood that I do not restrict myself to any particular shape of coffin, as my invention is equally applicable to either the ordinary or the mediæval shaped coffins.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

Firstly. The improvements hereinbefore described in the manufacture of wood coffins that are required to be water-tight and air-tight, that is to say by adapting specially prepared metal brackets or flanges to the top and the bottom of the metal lining, as shewn in the accompanying drawings, fitting into the said metal brackets or flanges two slight wooden frames or kerbs to which all the necessary linings and trimmings, for the reception of the body, may be securely and properly fixed without in any way perforating or injuring the said metal lining.

Secondly. The improvements hereinbefore described in the exterior of the coffins by which the panels formed are fitted with separate panels covered with velvet or some other textile material; or having the said panels of an entirely different kind or nature of wood to that of which the main or principal part of the coffin is constructed.

Dated this Eleventh day of August 1893.

JAMES BRADLEY FURNISS.

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(1 SHEET)

FIGURE 1.

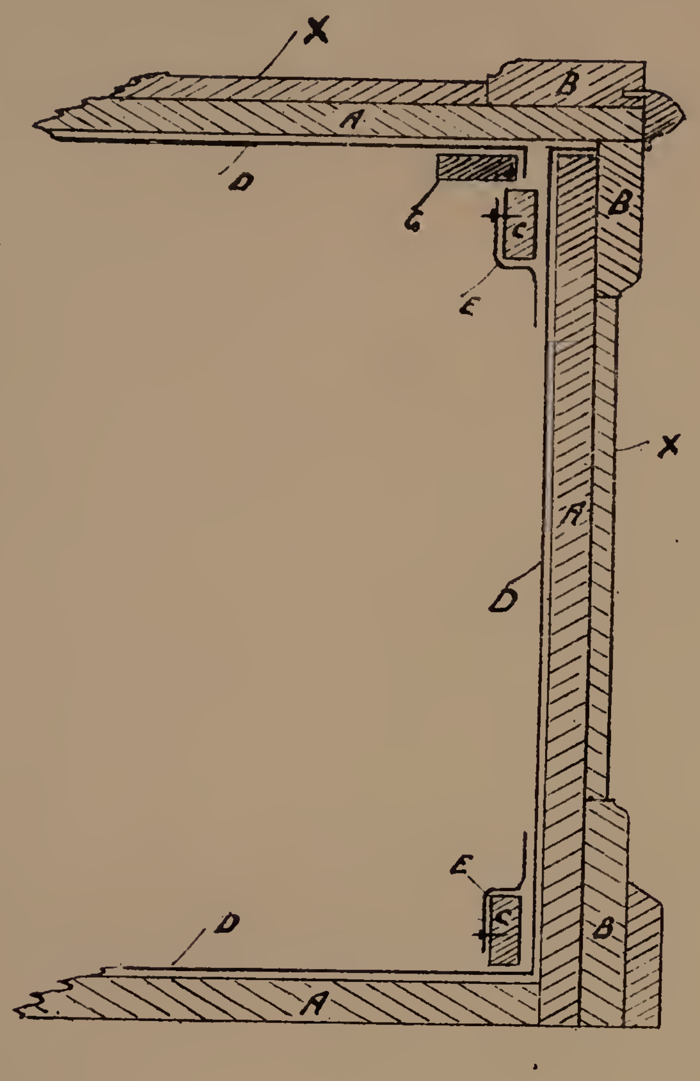


FIGURE 2.

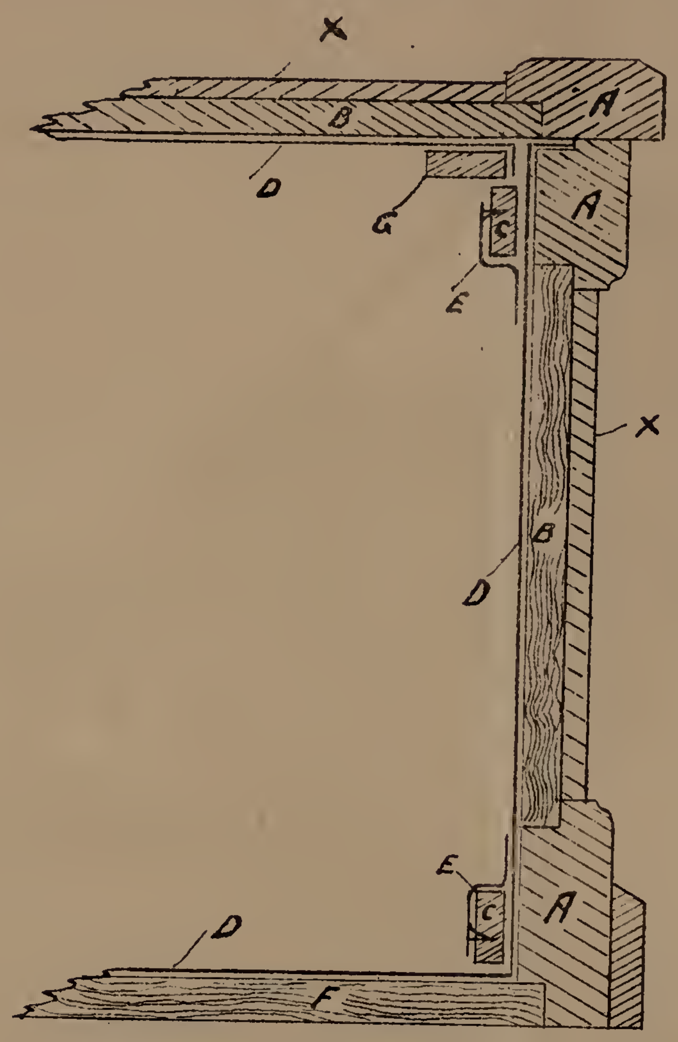


FIGURE 3.

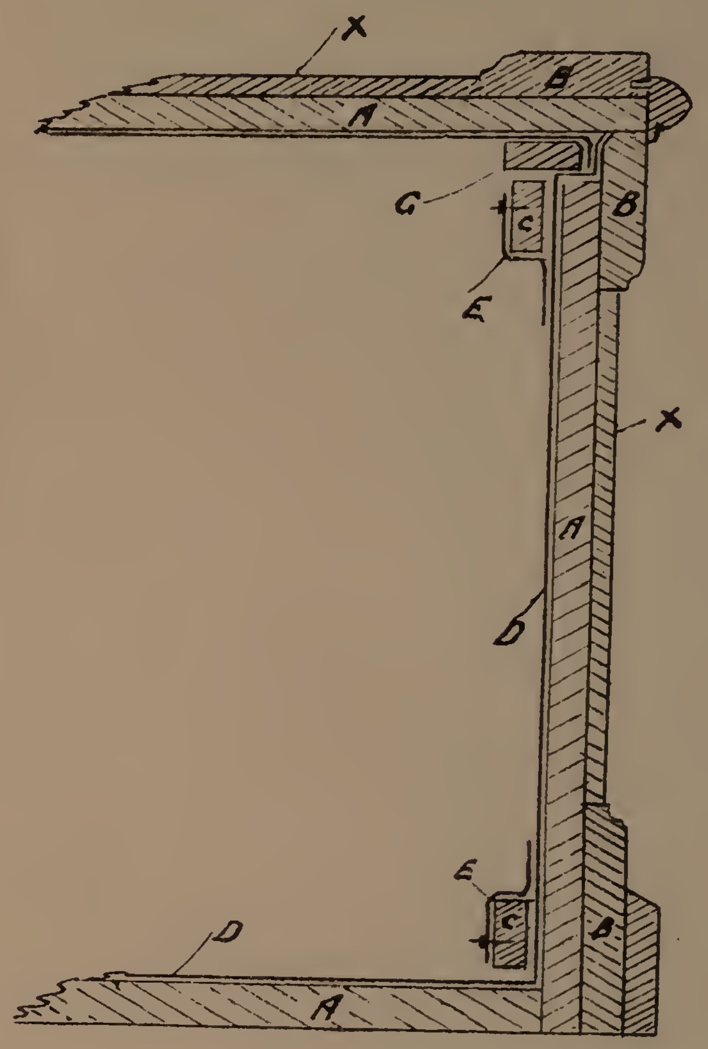
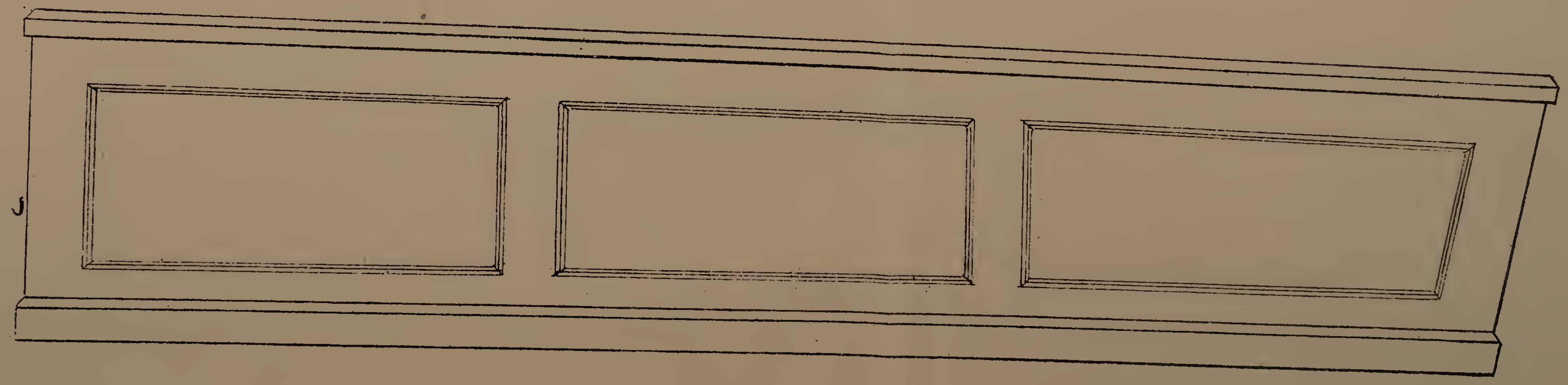


FIGURE 4.



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]

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